

DIFFRACTIVE LIGHT MODULATOR

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In one embodiment disclosed, a light modulator can be configured to have a substantially flat optically active modulator element portion while deflected. The modulator can include a plurality of modulator elements arranged substantially in parallel, with each modulator element including an optically active portion and a support portion on either side of the optically active portion. Further, the optically active portion can have a narrower width than the support portion. In another embodiment disclosed, a movable membrane for light modulation includes a substantially circular optically active portion and a released membrane portion surrounding the circular optically active portion. The substantially circular optically active portion can also include a plurality of gaps configured to expose a lower surface. Further, the substantially circular optically active portion can be essentially flat while in a deflected state.